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**DEC 18 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

Patent No. 6,391,654 :  
Issued: May 21, 2002 :  
Application No. 09/658,302 :  
Filed: September 8, 2000 :  
Attorney Docket No. 49447-2USPX :  
For: SEPARATION AND DETECTION OF  
SPERMATOZOA

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed July 31, 2006 (certificate of mailing date July 27, 2006), under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued May 21, 2002. The grace period for paying the 3½ year maintenance fee expired at midnight on May 21, 2006. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision. Petitioner paid a \$65.00 grace period fee along with the 3 ½ year maintenance fee and the surcharge. The grace period fee is unnecessary and will be refunded to deposit account no. 10-0447.

After the mailing of this decision, the file will be forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

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